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BRADLEY NUREMBERG



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**FISH AND GAME COMMISSION**

383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
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Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 974-1431 Fax (213) 633-5102

**MINUTES**

Thursday, October 14, 2004 Meeting  
6:00 p.m.

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Room 374 A

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

John Hybarger, Chairperson  
Sandra Aronberg, Vice Chair  
Douglas Drummond  
Brad Nuremberg

**STAFF PRESENT**

B. Gene Romig  
Peter Papadakis

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Hybarger called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF JULY 15, 2004 MINUTES**

**On motion of Commissioner Aronberg, seconded by Commissioner Drummond, the Commission unanimously approved the July 15, 2004 minutes.**

**REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REPORT**

Staff reported the \$80,766.31 account balance as of June 30, 2004 does not reflect the \$5,236 from the Gamebird Heritage Pheasant Hunt and the \$2,500 from the Hollenbeck Park Free Fishing Event. Of the \$12,380 the Commission approved for Steve Holl's Implementation of the Bighorn Sheep Restoration Project \$1,305.24 remains; giving the Commission a current account balance of \$71,066.06. Vice Chairperson Aronberg suggested an annual summary of grant expenses would be useful. Chairperson Hybarger added that creating a budget report reflecting certain categories will allow the Commission to project future expenditures.

**On motion of Commissioner Drummond, seconded by Commissioner Nuremberg, the Commission unanimously approved receiving and filing the financial report.**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- Steve Holl's July 30, 2004 Updated Report on the San Gabriel Mountains Bighorn Sheep Project: Chairperson Hybarger summarized the report (copy on file). The San Bernadino National Forest received 675,000 to restore bighorn sheep as a result of last year's Grand Prix Fire. To date, the Forest has not encumbered any money. Also, John Aziz, Wrightwood California, is developing a solar powered, digital camera.
- October 1, 2004 Invoice from Steve Holl regarding the Restoration Strategy: The Commission discussed Steve Holl's labor and copying costs/billing for the final

Restoration Strategy report. Chairperson Hybarger noted that there is no distinction between the types of labor Mr. Holl is performing.

Staff recommended a clause be inserted into contract to better define certain expenditures. Commissioner's Aronberg and Nuremberg concurred and added that Steve Holl has done tremendous work.

- Implementation Strategy to Restore the San Gabriel Mountains Bighorn Sheep Population – September 2004: Chairperson Hybarger summarized Rebecca Barboza's report. To date, 10 sheep were collared and another capture is scheduled for November 1, 2004. The sheep and 1 Mountain Lion are being tracked, however, it has not been determined if the Mountain Lion and sheep are successfully coexisting in the same habitat or if the mountain lion is attacking the sheep or if it's feeding off of deer.
- California Department of Fish and Game Bighorn Sheep Update – Chanelle Davis: Chairperson Hybarger summarized the results of the Bighorn Sheep Update (copy on file). There was a successful recapture of the rams with malfunctioning GPS collars and they were replaced with VHF collars. A new GPS collar, purchased by the Commission, was placed on a new ram in an area where they were trying to capture sheep for some time. Also, the collared mountain lion was recaptured and his GPS collar was replaced. If you log on to [www.nelsonbighorn.com](http://www.nelsonbighorn.com) you can view the most recently collared ram. This website is maintained by the volunteers. The forest service has outlined a prescribed burning for all four area forests. Mountain lion P1 found the female and there are now 4 kittens.
- Chairperson Hybarger attended the Annual Knabe Katch Fishing Event and reported it was a success and provided the public an opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities in an urban environment.

#### **PREPARATIONS FOR HOSTING THE NOVEMBER 2004 ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES FISH AND GAME COMMISSIONS**

Chairperson Hybarger reported that the Commission may host the Spring 2005 Annual Regional Conference. The Santa Barbara Commission has decided not to host the November conference due to lack of funds and low community interest.

#### **DRAFTING A LETTER REQUESTING THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO UTILIZE PART OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)'S \$12.8 MILLION GRANT TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME (DFG) TO HELP FUND SALMON RECOVERY EFFORTS IN CALIFORNIA BY EXAMINING THE EFFECT OF THE OUT OF CONTROL SEA LION POPULATION ON THE SALMON AND RECOMENDATION FOR CONTROLS**

Commissioner Nuremberg suggested the Commission draft a letter and send it to the State Department of Fish and Game requesting part of the \$12.8 million grant be used to research ways to reduce the Sea Lion population as it severely effects salmon on the Central Coast. Chairperson Hybarger concurred and added that more research should be done before a letter is sent to the State regarding this issue.

**FOREST PLAN REVISION:** Jerry Sirski, United States Forest Service, was not present.

**SCENIC BYWAYS:** Carly Furuno and Rudy Retamoza, United States Forest Service, provided a PowerPoint presentation on efforts to obtain 'designation of Highway 2' and how it will enhance tourism, stewardship, and local businesses in La Canada Flintridge and Wrightwood. Currently there are 96 byways in 39 states and 6 are in California. A

management plan to maintain the byways is currently under review.

Current projects include the interforest transportation route linking all four national forests (Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernadino, and Cleveland) from Big Sur to Baja; and rural routes which are rugged offshoot loops from the main highway which offer a little more challenging driving experience with recreational and educational opportunities (SUV routes).

Chairperson Hybarger inquired if designation guarantees funding. Ms. Furuno stated that designation does not guarantee funding but helps garner support for funding. Chairperson Hybarger asked that when the Forest Service has its quarterly management plan completed that they send copies to Commission Staff.

**JULIE KING'S GRADUATE STUDY REGARDING THE CURRENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE FOX SQUIRREL (SCIURUS NIGER) IN THE GREATER LOS ANGELES METROPOLITAN AREA AND ITS BEHAVIORIAL INTERACTION WITH THE NATIVE WESTERN GRAY SQUIRREL (SCIURUS GRISCUS)**

Professor Alan Muchlinski, California State University, Los Angeles reported that Julie King's master thesis produced significant findings on the interaction between the Fox Squirrel and the Gray Squirrel. Most her research was conducted at San Dimas Canyon Park (copy on file). First, she documented the current distribution of the fox squirrel. Second, she documented the historical spread of the fox squirrel from 1904 to 2003. Third, she documented reasons for expansion of the fox squirrel including natural dispersal and access to cable lines to move above traffic. The Gray Squirrel was found to be the more aggressive species but the Fox Squirrel has a broader range of food items. Timing of mating with the two species appears not to overlap. Only Gray Squirrels currently inhabit Bonelli Park. Professor Muchlinski plans to evaluate the park before it is inhabited by the Fox Squirrel in approximately two to three years and then after, to make a comparison study. Commissioner Aronberg inquired if any squirrels in the research were found carrying fleas with bubonic plague. Professor Muchlinski advised that no Fox or Gray Squirrels were found with fleas carrying bubonic plague but cases of California Ground Squirrels carrying bubonic plague were discovered. Chairperson Hybarger thanked Professor Muchlinski for his presentation and advised that the Commission will receive and file Julie King's study once a hardcopy of the document is submitted.

**MATTERS NOT POSTED (TO BE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED AND PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR A FUTURE MEETING)**

Dr. Sabrina Drill, Natural Resources Advisor for Los Angeles and Ventura Counties from the University of California Cooperative Extension will be presenting at the next meeting regarding the effects of West Nile Virus on the wildlife.

The Commission agreed to move the meeting date back from the third Thursday of the first month of every quarter to the second Thursday of first month of every quarter.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

